



The I/O Connector

October

1988

The Newsletter of the San Diego Atari Computer Enthusiasts



Macman - S.W. Wood 11/86

Nightmare on Idaho Street: Ernest for S.D.A.C.E. President!!!!

Those Parrot Awards: What the Editor Liked at Glendale

Using the H-P DeskJet with Publishing Partner

How to make Awful Greeting Cards with Publishing Partner

Atari Tutors Wanted! See Inside for Details

8-bit Paint Program Acquires New and Ominous Meaning....

THE SAN DIEGO ATARI COMPUTER ENTHUSIASTS

(S.D.A.C.E.) is an independent, non-profit organization and users group with no connection to Atari Corporation. Membership includes access to the program libraries, subscription to **The I/O Connector**, free want ads, and access to other club activities. Permission to reprint articles from this newsletter in non-commercial form is granted provided original credit is given

Commercial Advertising-Monthly Rates

\$35-Full \$30-Back \$20-Half \$10-Quarter \$5-Business Card
(Prepay for 5 months, get the 6th Free!)

S.D.A.C.E. Officers

President	Mark Lawless 691-7844 (10 a.m.-5 p.m.)	V.P. (8-bit)	Ron Miller 748-7195 (5 p.m.-9 p.m.)
Treasurer	Nancy Rivers 670-6991 (leave message)	Membership	Dick Hiatt 541-7034 (5 p.m.-9 p.m.)
Secretary	David Delgadillo 475-6790 (5p.m.-9 p.m.)	V.P. (ST)	Vacant until December elections
Newsletter	Tom Briant 581-2477 (5 p.m.-9 p.m.)	ST Librarian	Paul Huntington

SDACE B.B.S. (619) 284-3821 300/1200/2400 Baud
XE/ST Sysop: Rick DeHaven 24 hours/60+ megabytes

Mailing Address:

S.D.A.C.E.
PO. BOX 203076
San Diego, CA 92120.

Newsletter Submissions:

Send all text and graphics to the club P.O. Box or Sig 1 of the S.D.A.C.E. BBS by the 30th of each month for inclusion the next month. Text should be ASCII or Word Writer; Graphics should be high-res DEGAS or .IMG.

Yes, sign me up for one year's membership in S.D.A.C.E. This entitles me to receive the monthly club newsletter, use the club libraries, and use of the club B.B.S. Membership dues are \$18 per year. Mail this form and your check to S.D.A.C.E., P.O. 203076, San Diego, CA 92120

Name _____ Computer _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Comments _____

The Pursuit of Happiness by Tom Briant

Elections, elections, elections. You may get sick about my harangues about the December elections; but all the auto insurance initiative ads probably lowered your resistance to begin with.

This group will need a new President. This group needs two new Vice-presidents, an ST and an 8-bit. You should also consider seeking the posts of Secretary, Treasurer, Membership, 8-bit Disk Librarian, ST Disk Librarian, and Newsletter Editor. If you don't feel you possess the qualifications or time now to do one of these jobs, but feel the impulse to lend a hand, give in to that impulse. I can think of a great job for you to do: Computer Society delegate. You would attend the SIG Council meeting of the San Diego Computer Society once a month, take notes on upcoming events, collect whatever paperwork and mail that arrived for us, and report to the Executive Board at their next meeting. Or you could serve as Retail Store Liaison and put publicity material, such as posters with meeting times, in the 10 stores in San Diego selling Atari computers.

Now suppose competition builds for each post. What should you look for in the candidate and the candidate's platform? 1. Enthusiasm to begin with. 2. Available time; people who work Monday evenings should seek other offices. (Hint-the Computer Society job needs one Saturday morning a month) 3. A clear plan of action. I myself want to know if the new board will push for new members from the people who bought the 520s and Mega 2s on Christmas special. Once new owners get past the thrill of seeing anything on their monitors, they will have questions about hooking up printers, best buys in software, and how to do simple things that the manual overlooks. It took me quite awhile to discover how to do a screen dump by pressing [Alt][Help]! My manual didn't mention that. Nor did it mention RAM-disks, a necessity for backing up 2 single-sided magazine disks onto 1 double-sided disk with only a single drive machine.

Sig Hartmann stated at Glendale that he wanted to hear from users. He saw little point in our grouching over the BBS's about Atari's ineptitude. So if you want to write to Sig, write to him at Atari Corporation, 1196 Borregas Avenue, Sunnyvale, CA 94086. But wait! You want quicker action and access to the very heart of Atari. Short of going to Atari and posting your letter in the executive washroom; send Atari a FAX!!!! Fax machines have sprung up all over town. We Copy in Claremont Mesa, 5375 Kearny Villa Road, has a Fax machine open until 10:30 weeknights. Atari's Fax number is (408) 745-4306. So print up your thoughts and send them in. Thanks to M.A.G.I.C. for this piece of information.

The Federated on Sports Arena could use some people to tutor and advise new owners on how to get their hardware and software up and running. If interested, call Joseph or Frank at 223-5301 during the week. They want people with experience in word processing programs, spreadsheets, and telecommunications, both 8-bit and ST. New owners needing help will compensate you for your time and trouble.

Pat Coffey contributed the article on using the DeskJet with Publishing Partner. She brought some of her work to the last meeting and it looks great! Rejoice, PP owners, now you can enjoy the DeskJet, too.

Maxine Haren Iritz in the September 16th and September 30th ComputerEdge gave the I/O Connector good reviews as "informative and fun," and "has some truly useful information," such as Mike Leshner's Multisync connections. She advised Atari users to join the group and to get the I/O Connector. I couldn't agree more.

Robert Art Morgan, ComputerEdge's Macintosh columnist, likes the Spectre 128 cartridge. He believes Apple should make a low-priced Mac and the Spectre provides the only commercial alternative.

I say commercial alternative because Computer Shopper magazine has run a multi-part series on building your own Hackintosh, starting with an old 128K RAM Mac motherboard. I'd rather give the money to Dave Small. He can use the money and I don't need the frustration.

So, decide what post to go for, work on your campaign and acceptance speeches, and don't forget to attend the December meeting!

A final note. If you have GDOS or bought G+PLUS and want to try programming for GDOS, the latest P.S.A.N. has the C listing for their badge-making program. Contact me if you are interested.

Atari BBS List

SDACE-BBS XE/ST
284-3821

COMPUTER PLUS XE/ST
691-7862

COMPUTER OUTLET ST
282-6815

COMPUTER BLVD ST
670-1095 (NEW!)

SMART 520 ST
480-9686 / 726-4419

THE LORD'S HOUSE XE
579-7354

SHERWOOD FOREST XE
273-5603

COMPUTOREDGE ST
573-1675

Updates and additions welcome!

Your Personal Poet

Review by Jennie Kliewer

A program that was brought to my attention by Peter Corona is Personal Poet. This is an easy program to operate and gives you several poems to choose from for a friend or relative. You enter the person's name, where they live, and one or two character traits about them, the program composes from there giving you the choice of the poem on the screen or one in the buffer, or if you don't care for either of those, it will compose another from the same information. You can choose several different topics to head the poem: Happy Birthday, wedding, new baby, Merry Christmas, just hello and many more. Two styles are available—a short limerick or a longer sentimental poem.

Once your poem is composed, you also have the option of editing it, changing lines and swapping lines with other poems. The result is lots of fun and can be used in Publishing Partner to make a card. First compose your poem and save it. Exit to the desktop and click on "Show Info" to change the name of the file to an (.txt) extender from (.POE).

To create a template on Publishing Partner, divide up your page into four sections. Leaving one half inch on each side, bring your arrow across. Starting at 1/2" drag the arrow down to 5" and over to 3 and 3/4" in the upper left corner and another arrow space starting at 6" left coordinate over 4 and 3/4" and down to 10 and 1/2" over to 8". Now you have the page set up to load in your text on the bottom right hand text box and turn the paper around to put a graphic on the upper left hand space. This is easier if you have Degas elite to create a graphic and turn it upside down to be placed on the sheet and printed out in one sweep. If you are running it through your printer twice, leave a sheet on each end to run it through the paper feed. Just delete the text out of the box and put your graphic in it the second time through.

Order your copy from:

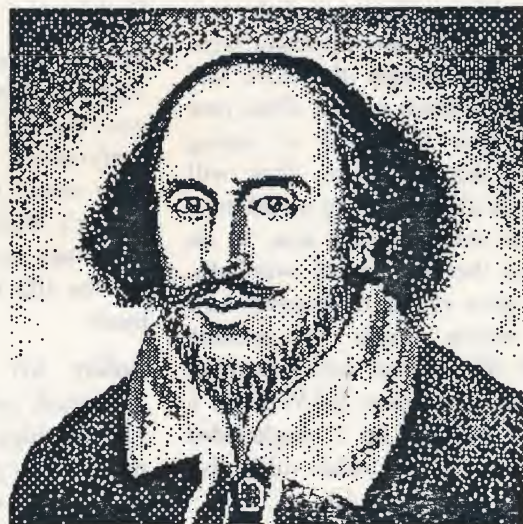
Your Personal Poet
P.O.Box 7707
Incline Village, Nevada 89450
(702) 831-8800

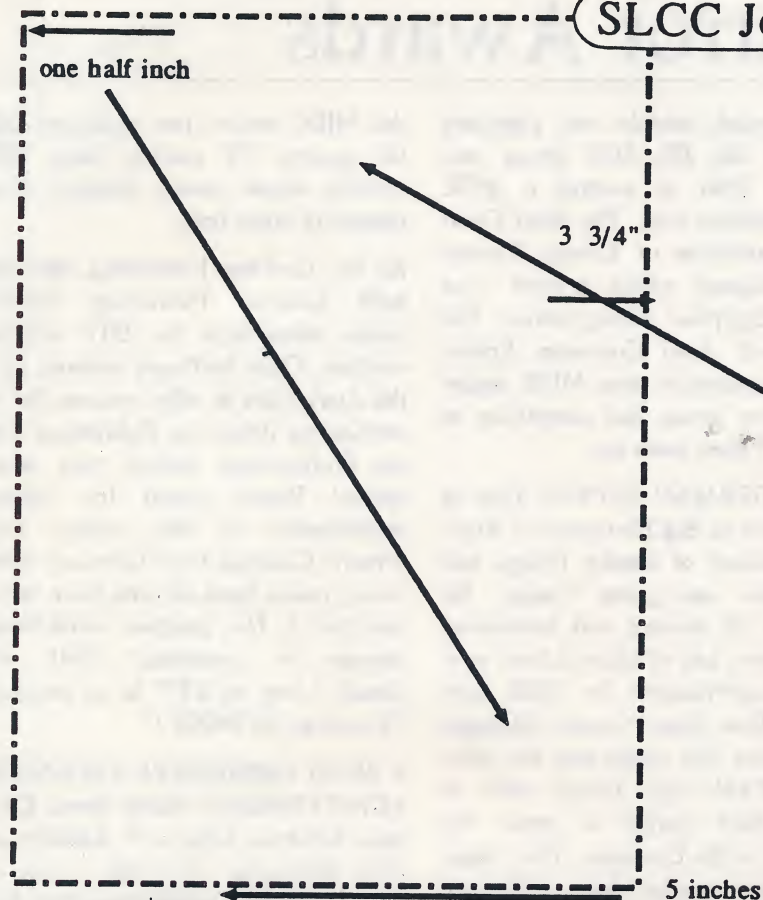
To Bob Barton
There is a fine fellow I know
In San Leandro you live and that's so
Your conversations abound
With talkative sound
It's you, Bob Barton, I know, read below
An adventure game did drive you bonkers
Until Dungeon Master you did conquer
Atari Computers remain
Your love, it is plain
'Bout computers your claims are zonkers

From SLCC I bid you hello
These greetings I send as I go
Although you're here
We send you a cheer...
Best Wishes to you we bestow

Regards, SLCC Editors

JK



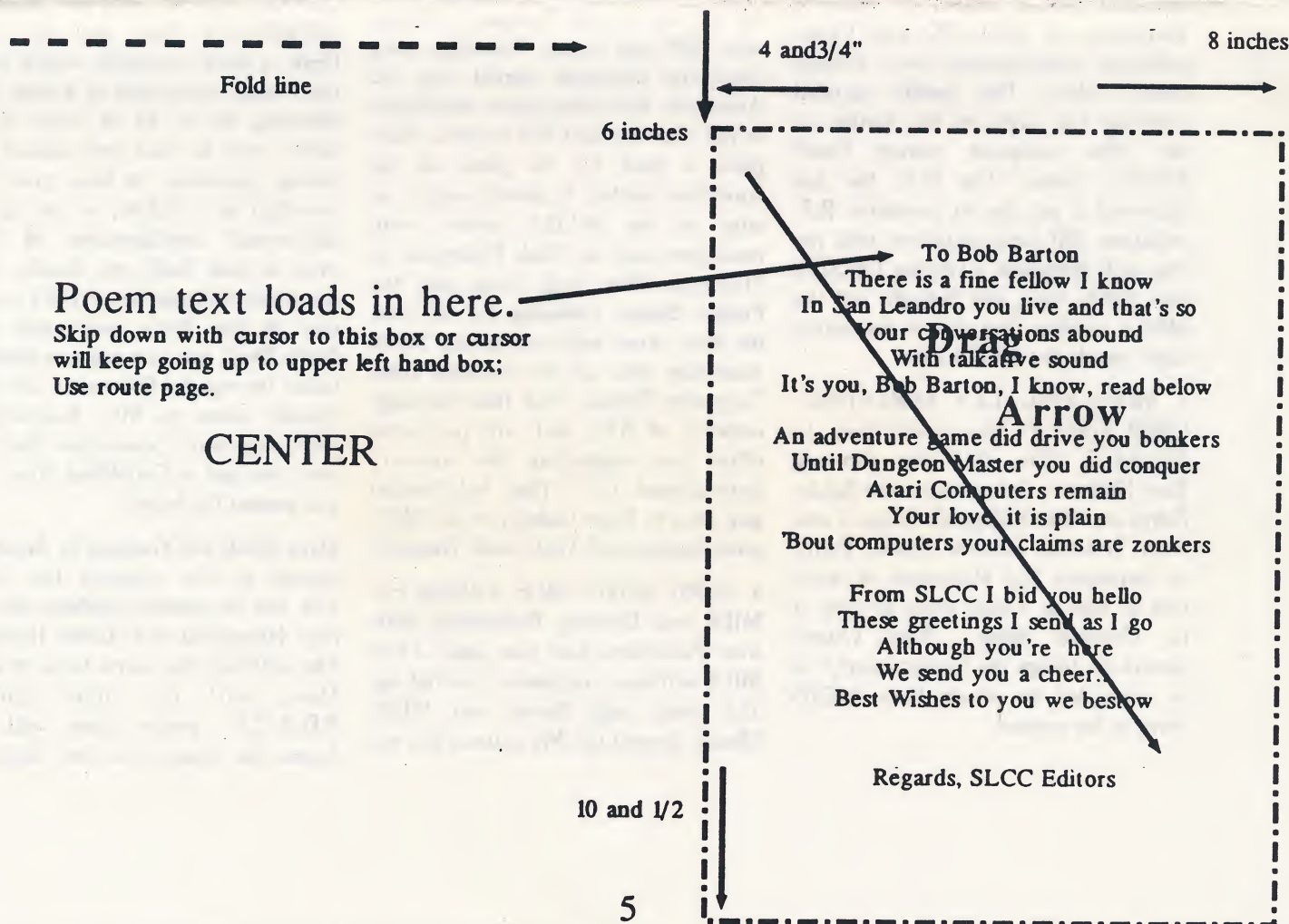


Upside down Degas Picture goes here . As explained in opposite page. Or run it through the printer twice. Picture can also be turned upside down by R-draw.



UOIJER OOR JOTJJEM

The new Publishing Partner Professional is supposed to rotate pictures .



The Parrot Awards

This is your roving reporter, back from the Glendale Atari Faire Version 3.0 with all the hot news and views. First off, two members of S.D.A.C.E. had software on sale there. Randy Sullivan's company, Total Control Systems, sold the G.O.E. cartridge at their booth, which gives the 8-bit a full-blown desktop. *ST Xpress* magazine's latest issue contained Paul Huntington's DIOX dialog box creator for GFA BASIC. Mark Booth lent his enthusiastic support to Dave Small, creator of Spectre 128, at the Gadgets by Small booth. Prospective purchasers lined up early for the chance to buy Spectre, asking as they entered, "Where's the Gadgets booth?"

Now to the presentation of the Parrot Awards:

1. MOST VISUALLY ARRESTING-PROFESSIONAL This award goes to JRI, Inc. of Pittsburg, CA, and their genlock for the ST. They showed an animated mouse, drawn by Maurice Molyneaux of ANALOG with Cyber software, superimposed over various music videos. The quality equaled anything I've seen on the Amiga or any other computer system. Cost? \$500.00. Catch? The FCC has not approved it yet due to excessive R.F. radiation. JRI representatives told me they will introduce a version for 520's and 1040's later, but brought out the MEGA version first due to the ample space inside the MEGA case.

2. MOST VISUALLY ARRESTING-USER GROUP This award goes to S.D.A.C.E. (Fix, fix!) for showing Tom Hudson's Cyber animation Spider Patrol on Mike Odegard's Mega 4 and Sony Trinitron monitor. Spider Patrol so impressed Sig Hartmann of Atari that he lent us a hard drive to copy it to. Grouched Mike, "They (Atari) always do things the hardest way!," as he struggled to attach their SH205 drive to his system.

I also found notable the planetary slideshow the JPL-ACE group ran, using an 8-bit to control a VCR. Really beautiful stuff. The Atari Computer Association of Orange County ran a program which printed your name in Egyptian hieroglyphics. The Long Beach Atari Computer Enthusiasts demonstrated their MIDI equipment. Every group had something to offer, but I must press on...

3. BEST GERMAN ACCENT This, of course, goes to Sig Hartmann of Atari, Vice President of sundry things, and now senior user-group liaison. He spoke for 15 minutes and introduced Frank Foster, late of Hybrid Arts, now Atari's Vice-President for MIDI matters, and Ron Alper, General Manager of Federated. Sig stated that the shortage of RAM chips forced Atari to decide which market to pursue, the American or the European. They enjoy vastly greater market share in Europe, with European business accepting the ST as the serious business machine over IBM and Apple. Naturally, they chose the European market over the American. With chip prices anticipated to fall over the next few months, Atari plans a push for its piece of the American market. It already enjoys an edge in the M.I.D.I. market, with musicians such as Mick Fleetwood of Fleetwood Mac, B.B. King, and the Pointer Sisters choosing the ST over the Mac. Atari will sponsor the North American tour of the German band Tangerine Dream, with their on-stage network of ST's, and will put some effort into supporting the Amnesty International tour. That bald-headed guy next to Peter Gabriel at the MTV press conference? That's Jack Tramiel!

4. MOST NOTICABLE ABSENCES- MIDI and Desktop Publishing Software Publishers. Last year, quite a few MIDI software companies showed up. This year, only Sonus and MIDI-Mouse showed up. My sources tell me

the MIDI market has separated from the general ST market; thus, MIDI vendors attend music industry shows instead of Atari fests.

As for Desktop Publishing, the Seybold Desktop Publishing Seminar across town drew the DTP software vendors. Only Softlogik showed up at the Atari Faire to offer excuses for the continuing delays in *Publishing Partner Professional*. Indeed, they win a special Parrot award for dubious achievement in that regard. Conversely, Calamus from Germany draws strong praise from all who have seen it and tried it. This program could finally change the question, "Well, why should I buy an ST?" to an emphatic "I need an ST NOW!"

5. MOST IMPRESSIVE TECHNICAL ACHIEVEMENT- Hands down, Codehead Software, Charles F. Johnson and John Eidsvoog, win this award for their G+DOS, a replacement for Atari GDOS which allows multiple ASSIGN.SYS files, and for Multi-Desk, a desk accessory which breaks the 6 desk accessories at a time limit; allowing up to 15 at once. It also allows you to load and unload DA's during operation, to keep your DA's corralled in a folder, to set up predetermined configurations of DA's; even to load itself and double, triple, quadruple the number of DA's you can run. A few DA's won't run under Multi-Desk, but you can run those few under the regular DA menu. Oh, and a special award to Mrs. Eidsvoog for most aggressive promotion. She made sure you got a CodeHead flyer when you passed the booth.

Dave Small and Gadgets by Small take second in this category for Spectre 128, the Macintosh emulator that now runs Hypercard and Adobe Illustrator. The software has some bugs in it, but Dave will fix them quickly. S.D.A.C.E. wishes him well, and hopes he brings out an AppleTalk

interface next.

6. BEST SOFTWARE VALUE- A tie here between Regent Software, offering their Regent Word II word processor for \$15, tax included; and Neoccept, Inc., offering a terrific deal on Word Up!, Fontz!, and TurboJet, their GDOS driver for the LaserJet and DeskJet. The best of the first and second generation word processors.

For you programmers out there, you could buy GFA BASIC 2.0 for \$9.95 on Saturday from Michtron. Even worse, I could have upgraded to 3.0 if I'd remembered to bring my 2.0 disk and book!

7. BEST 8-BIT SOFTWARE/HARDWARE- This award goes to ICD for SpartaDOS X cartridge. They assured me shipments have begun; you just get preliminary documentation with full documentation to follow. 8-bit owners always praise SpartaDOS as the best

when I ask them to rate operating systems; and a cartridge based version with a fast ARC utility takes it a step further.

Second place goes to Wuztek of Irvine, CA, for introducing a 3.5" drive for the 8-bits called Micropal.

8. MOST IMPRESSIVE DEVELOPMENT FOR 8-BITS - This award goes jointly to Randy Sullivan and Alan Reeves for G.O.E. and Diamond, the two 8-bit graphics desktops. I know Randy speaks highly of Alan; so I felt a joint award handled this situation fairly.

9. LEAST HIP- Of course, WordPerfect wins this award with their clean-cut, blue-suited representatives. These guys would have died over Labor Day weekend with Southern California temperatures over 100. All kidding aside, WordPerfect is the high-end word processor for the Atari ST. They

don't intend to expand its capabilities beyond 4.1 until a lot more ST's get sold; but the August 1988 revision is terrific! Fast cursor movement and support for every conceivable printer. The retail price should come down soon, too. I asked them if they minded shareware utilities for converting back and forth between WP and other wordprocessors. They don't. So you there, eating cold Dominos pizza and watching Letterman?-GET TO WORK!!!

This concludes this episode of the Parrot Awards. A.C.E. of Syracuse wants to know why John Demar and QMI didn't get one. Well, ST-Talk Professional with its 80 column GEM window display using custom screen fonts is impressive...Someone using ST-Talk Pro write a review, the man delivered on his promise!

Using the DeskJet with Publishing Partner by Pat Coffey

Here's how to use the H-P DeskJet with Publishing Partner:

There are 2 sets of 8 DIP switches located on the right side underneath where the paper is loaded. the DeskJet comes with all the switches in the down position. The meaning of each switch is located inside the cover. Curiously, the manual makes no mention of these switch's functions.

In order to make Publishing Partner work better with the DeskJet, I recommend the following settings:

Left bank 1.d, 2.d, 3.d, 4.d, 5.d, 6.d, 7.d, 8.U (d=Down, U=Up)

Right bank 1.d, 2.U, 3.d, 4.d, 5.d, 6.d, 7.d, 8.d (d=Down, U=Up)

Switch 8 of the left bank turns off the automatic "Perf skip" that causes the printer to add a top and bottom margin to the document.

Switch 2 of the right bank sets the defaults graphics mode to 300 dots per inch. Apparently, Publishing Partner doesn't send the proper codes to initialize the DeskJet to 300 dpi, producing very large letters.

I use the Publishing Partner LaserJet "F" Driver which I downloaded from GENie

Enlighten the UnHip!

Yes, you can turn your knowledge of Atari computers into cash and/or in-kind compensation. Federated at Sports Arena needs people with skill in wordprocessing, spreadsheets, and telecommunications to teach new owners about those fields. Both 8-bit and ST expertise needed. Call Joseph or Frank at 223-5301 during the week for details.

(Hey, why not? You know how to make Word Writer or Microsoft Write sit up and beg, now get at least a pizza out of it. If you know how to use Timeworks Desktop Publisher and have samples of your work as proof; you may have a very marketable skill. Ed.)

HOW WE REMODELLED OUR HOUSE USING OUR ATARI COMPUTER

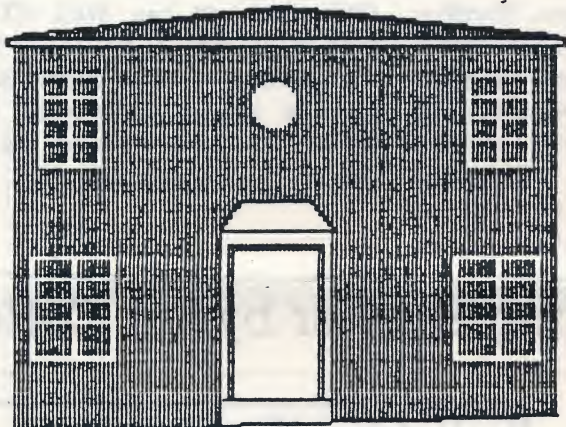
by

John Kelleher

"Our house", said my wife, at breakfast.
"Our house", I said, warily noncommittal.
"It's ugly."
"It's ugly."
"We need to do something about it."
"—We do?"

"Yes, we do. It's got that horrible fake orange window right in the middle. It looks like a box. And besides, it's green. It's ugly."

I had to admit her points were well taken. The house did seem to resemble a box more than perhaps was desirable. It did have a fake window covered with orange foil. And it was, indeed, green; a color virtuous and well-meaning, no doubt, but perhaps a trifle, well, of a different era, for our yuppifying neighborhood. In fact, it looked very much like this:



But what to do? Hiring an architect would eat up the limited funds we had available, with little or nothing left to actually build what was proposed.

It quickly developed that there weren't enough pencils and paper in the world for the job of redesigning the house ourselves. How could we draw features, take them away, and put them back again to see how they looked? How could we see what the house would look like if it were blue, or white, or (just for argument's sake) green?

If you, dear reader, at this point are yelling the following, I don't blame you:

"Use your computer, dummy! You can make hundreds of changes, save them all, mix and match, and change colors, without spilling a single drop of rubber cement or poster paint!"

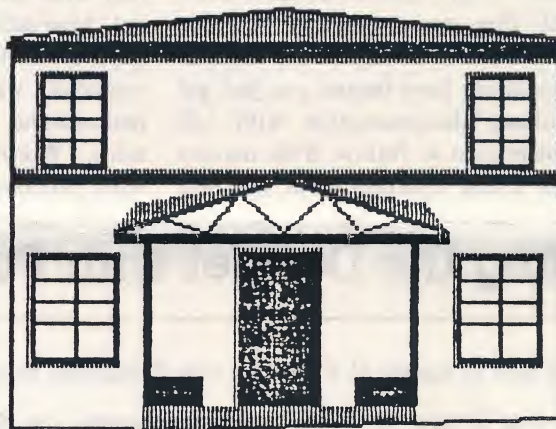
I, too, eventually figured that out. And so, I set about transferring house measurements to a computer screen. Naturally, it took me an hour to notice the problem of aspect ratio. That is, one horizontal unit on the 8-bit computer screen is not the same size as one vertical unit. Drawing a box 20 horizontal units by 20 vertical units creates something that looks like a rectangle, not a square. It was a simple matter to adjust my measurements to take this factor into account, so that a square shape on the house was indeed

square-shaped on the screen.

It took only a few small weeks of muttered imprecations, trips to the calculator, and general fooling around to arrive at a Finished Design which was pronounced by Mary Herself to be "...nice." Lofty praise, indeed. We would have a Real Porch. The orange window would disappear. And—a daring touch made tenable to us rank amateur designers only because we could see exactly what it would look like: graphic horizontal striping, which with the addition of the porch would remove much of the house's boxy quality. And we used the computer to do what is so hard to do in the imagination or with little paint chips: decide what colors it should be.

I even remembered Edwin Land's (of Polaroid fame) studies of how our perception of a color is drastically affected by the environment in which the color is viewed. And so I made a bright blue sky as a background, and—whoops—that white needs to be toned up. That grey needs to be lightened. And so forth.

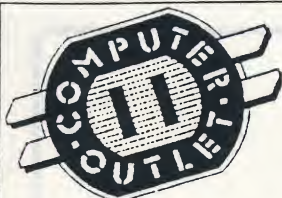
And so it went, until the Final Finished Design appeared: a white house, with dark blue and lighter grey trim and striping. Maybe not everyone's cup of tea, but we liked it. And we did it all with our little Atari computer:



Naturally, not everyone needs to remodel the outside of their house, but how about a bathroom or a kitchen? If you fool around with a little perspective drawing, you can get an eye-level view, and move around or replace the furniture and accessories to see how it all looks.

And I cannot overstress how helpful it is to view colors in context, next to coordinating (or conflicting?) elements; and to be able to see, not just imagine, changes in color schemes. The 8-bit Atari 'only' lets you choose from sixteen different colors in eight different brightnesses, for a total of 128. But this palette will at the very least get you in the right "color ballpark". And if you have an ST, your palette is even more extensive.

But this last, dear reader, is to be considered Top Secret For Your Eyes Only and under no circumstances should Mary be allowed to read it. For my job is not finished. It is now On To The Spreadsheet Program. To figure out how in the heck to pay for all this.



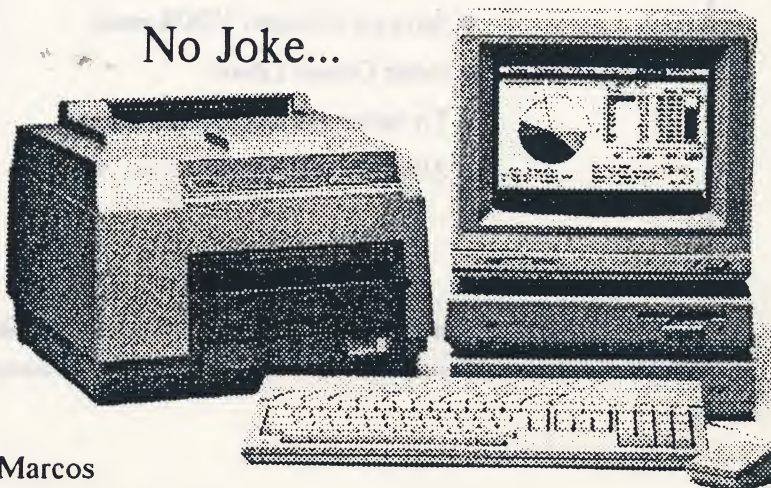
NEW PROMO from ATARI!
MEGA 2 Monochrome system \$1299.99!!

Four megabytes of RAM, high resolution monitor, high speed laser printer and optional Macintosh and IBM compatibility all for below \$3000.

You must be kidding?

Call or stop by any **Computer Outlet** location and we'll show you the lowest priced professional Desktop Publishing system you can find. Add optional emulators and you'll be running programs like **Excel**, or **Lotus 123** on the same computer. You can literally save thousands of dollars over an equally equipped Macintosh or IBM system. If your looking for professional desktop publishing, look no further.

No Joke...



San Diego
282-6200

Chula Vista
585-8100

San Marcos
740-0111

SSL ENTERPRIZES

400/800

16K MEMORY BOARD	\$ 8.00
O S BOARD	8.00
CPU BOARD < OLD >	8.00
< NEW >	10.00

ICs

810/1050 PIA, 800/XL/XE PIA,	
Pokey, GTIA, 6507, 810 OS	\$ 5.00
800 ANTIC	5.00
XL/XE ANTIC, 1050 C S	10.00

MISC

130 XE keyboard mylar	\$ 20.00
600XL 64K upgrade	29.00
800XL 256K upgrade PCB no ICs	15.00

ATARI 8-BIT PARTS

810

SIDE BOARD	\$ 15.00
DATA SEPARATOR	8.00
SIDE + D S	20.00
ANALOG BOARD	8.00
REAR BOARD	8.00
SET OF ALL 4	32.00

STEVE LAWRENCE

745-2044

Warner's

We support what we sell

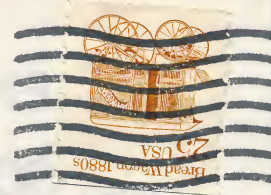


Check out our features

- Authorized Atari Service Center
- Competent, Knowledgeable salesmen
- Software to support YOUR needs
- Public Domain Library
- Try before you buy software policy
- Affordable consultation in your home
- Complete 8-bit support
- No comissioned salesman
- Business leasing available
- Special orders
- Books and Magazines
- Mac Sac and PC-Ditto support, too!

• Warner Engineering—3545 Midway Drive, Suite 'C', San Diego, California 92075 Ph. (619)-224-5090

SAN DIEGO ATARI COMPUTER ENTHUSIASTS
P.O. BOX 203076
SAN DIEGO, CA 92120



EXP: JUL 89

SAN DIEGO, CA 92126

THE **November 8-BIT** meeting will be held on **November 10th** at the Rec Center, 10540 Caminito Baywood, in Mira Mesa at 7:00 pm. The **ST beginners/hands-on workshop** will be held at North Park Rec Center (Across from Folsom's Racquetball Court) **November 3rd** at 6:30 p.m. The **regular ST meeting** occurs on **November 21st** at the North Park Rec Center, Social Room facility, at 6:30 p.m. The **November Executive Board** meeting will take place on November 14th: all are welcome, call an officer for location.